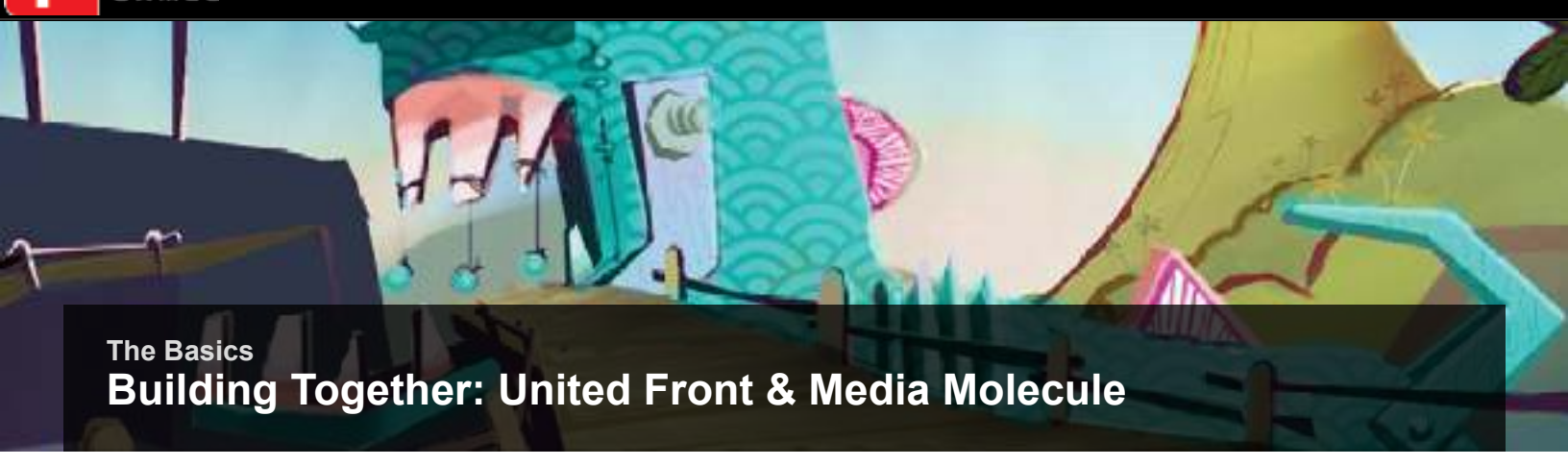
The Basics

Welcome to LittleBigPlanet Karting

Salutations, traveler! Funny running into you all the way out here in the Craftverse. Are you new to these parts or haven't been by in a while? Things might look a touch different since our Creator Curators have been busy building some amazing roadways, thoroughfares, and more!

Of course, getting around all this new construction and infrastructure requires more horsepower than your sack person's wee-knitted feet can muster. Fortunately, getting your sack person behind the wheel won't break the bank. Interest rates are at an all-time low and interesting races are at an all-time high!



The Basics

Building Together: United Front & Media Molecule

A Friendly Chat with:

Mat Thomas

Senior Game Designer, United Front Games

How did you get started in the video game industry?

I have always been a keen gamer, and got into video games way back in the day on the Commodore 16 and 64. Playing games on these old computers immediately drew me in, and ever since then I have always had an affinity with games. I got my break in the games industry in Leeds, England with Psygnosis which was then acquired by Sony, our partners on *LittleBigPlanet Karting* .

I worked as a game designer in the studio on *Wipeout 3* (PS one) and Lemmings Revolution (PC). After leaving Leeds and my beloved footy team Leeds United, I then worked at Acclaim Entertainment and Codemasters before making the leap across the Atlantic to Vancouver to work at EA on the Need For Speed titles. After several games there, I then decided to move to United Front Games, where I worked on ModNation Racers and then this game, *LittleBigPlanet Karting* .

If you could replace one part on your car with a *LBPK* kart component, which one would it be and why?

Well this is an easy one—it has to be the hover rockets hasn't it?! Never mind the wheels, being able to rocket your way around the track is far more enjoyable.

What was the most outlandish level idea you had to cut from the game and why?

Here at UFG we have a dedicated team of level designers who have come up with some truly great levels. The good news is nearly all of these are included in *LittleBigPlanet Karting* ! We didn't necessarily have any outlandish levels that got cut, but rather these are being worked on for the community to enjoy when the game comes out on day one. That is the power of the creation tools; our own seasoned level designers can go home and publish their own amazing levels for other users to not only play, but also dissect to see how the professionals use the tools to create the best experiences possible.

Who was the most interesting Creator Curator to design and why?

I think the team in general has liked Don Doubtworthy for a long time. All the levels on his planet are really fun to play and they introduce a brand new theme to the LBP universe. The story he presents is also really fun, which partners up well with the great levels in the Progress Emporium. It's pretty fun to see how oblivious he is to the world around him as the story progresses!

How involved was Media Molecule throughout the game's development?

Ever since both studios pushed the "Play, Create, Share" genre, we have been in communication to share our ideas and thoughts on how this genre can work. With coordination and input from our partners at Sony San Diego, I think we have as a group of passionate developers managed to drive the game in the right direction. The key was always to capture the essence of LBP in terms of the art style, the accessible gameplay and the creation tools, and I feel we have done this admirably. The good news is MM have been with us every step of the way, giving us feedback on our decisions and encouraging us to continue to push the game.

Describe a typical day at the United Front Games studio.

A typical day in United Front Games is one where everyone is working hard to make the best game possible. Each day starts with a gathering of all the different people in different areas of the game to discuss what we are working on. We then break and go back to work on said features. As work is complete, the designers and producers will play the game live and check out the new work and give immediate feedback. This will continue through the day as we hone new features.

Near the end of the day we will normally take a break to go and play the game online as a larger group so we can see the game away from our desk. This is very important as you are then seeing the game more as a consumer and not a developer. These sessions are normally filled with lots of discussion, suggestions and note taking. These notes are then used to help drive the quality of the game up. Being passionate about the game and your work is key, to ensure we deliver the best game possible to our fans.

If you could hit the road right now and drive anywhere you wanted, where would you go?

One day, I hope to jump into a car and drive from here in Vancouver, BC down to Southern California. This is one of the most amazing drives in the world and it is here on my doorstep. It's a long way away from motorways in England, which I was used to for most of my life!

The musical choices are one of the more distinct aspects of the LBP series. What standout tracks did United Front Games feel had to be in there?

There is a ton of great music in *LBPK* , all lovingly selected by our great audio department to match our levels in Story mode. We have different styles and types of music in the game. For straight up music, Grand Theft Ecstasy by Feed Me is a great driving track. We also have interactive music in the game and the great thing about these tracks is how they can change. The Progress Emporium by Peter Chapman is a great track that really shows this off. It does a superb job of blending Classical and Electronic over the course of the song.

I am sure everyone will enjoy the diverse tracks in *LittleBigPlanet Karting* !

What's your favorite track/level and why?

My favorite level in the game by far is Huge Spaceship. It is an excellent kart track, well tuned to create a very intense but fun gameplay experience. We have played this level countless times at United Front Games, competing online to see who can dominate races. It really is an excellent level to really see the depth of the kart racing and the intricacies of the gameplay mechanics.

What's your best advice for a beginner level builder?

Experimentation with all the tools is the key to success and understanding. Go through all the tutorials and pick a first project that is simple. It's okay to shoot for the stars, but not with your first level! Start small and gradually get more ambitious as you get better at using the tools. Also gain inspiration from others in the community, just from playing other people's levels you may be able to figure out how they did something and that will inspire you to create your level. Don't underestimate how much good polish and fine tuning can improve what you may consider to be an "average" idea or concept.

Use the community to help you! Engage fellow *LBPK* players to learn how they are overcoming design challenges, or how to create specific experiences.

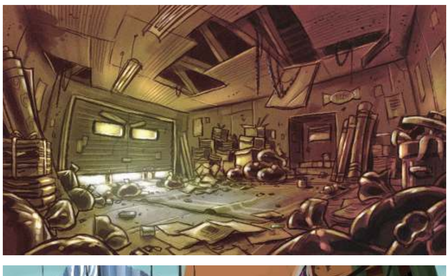
What is the Create tool you couldn't imagine making a level without and why?

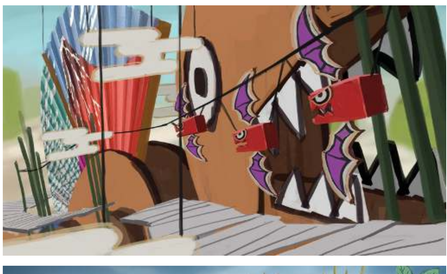
Universally, our development team here at United Front Games answered this question with one answer—geo painting! Due to the amazing flexibility with painting shapes and using different materials, anything is possible. Understanding all the basics is a good start, but investing time in understanding how geo paint works will remove any creative shackles you may have thought you had.

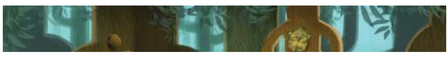
What advice do you have for people interested in getting into the video game industry?

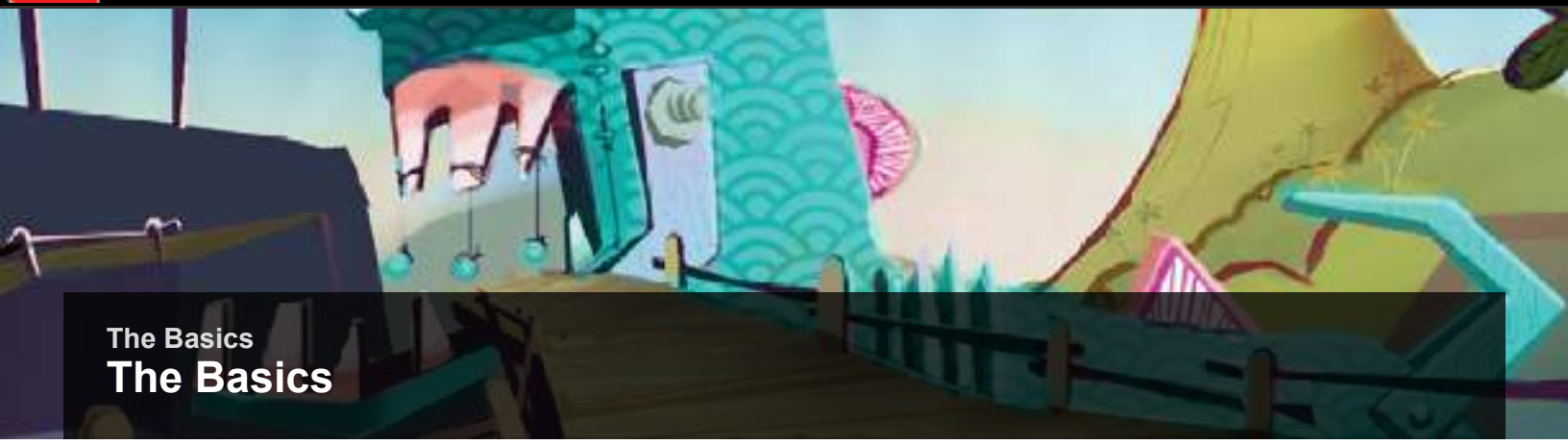
Whatever you envision yourself doing in the games industry, start doing it. Don't wait for someone to show you how to do something. If you want to game design, design a game, get familiar with tools like in *LittleBigPlanet Karting* . In fact, *LittleBigPlanet Karting* is a perfect place to start to understand a range of facets of game development.

Understanding the craft is key to getting into the industry. Be passionate, understand what you want to do, and be keen to impress. People with this attitude will always rise to the top.









The Basics

The plethora high-speed traffic zipping about the Craftverse means your sack person is safer in the driver's seat than wandering out on the road. It's dangerous out there! Before you start tearing up the asphalt, it's important to get your bearings.

Using Your Pod

All road trips in the Craftverse start right here in your Pod. Think of it as your own personal pit stop for all your karting needs. But your Pod is good for more than swapping out wheels and festooning your ride with flashy decorations. Press ✕ to access the Pod Computer located in your Pod and start navigating the multitude of worlds in the Craftverse.

Navigating Menus

To explore the many nooks and crannies in the various menus scattered about the Craftverse, press ↑ , ↓ , ← , or → to highlight an option. Press ✕ to confirm or ○ to return to the previous menu screen.

Bringing A Buddy

To have a friend join all the racing excitement, simply press p on each additional controller (up to four) and await the imminent arrival of new sack people to your Pod.

Popit

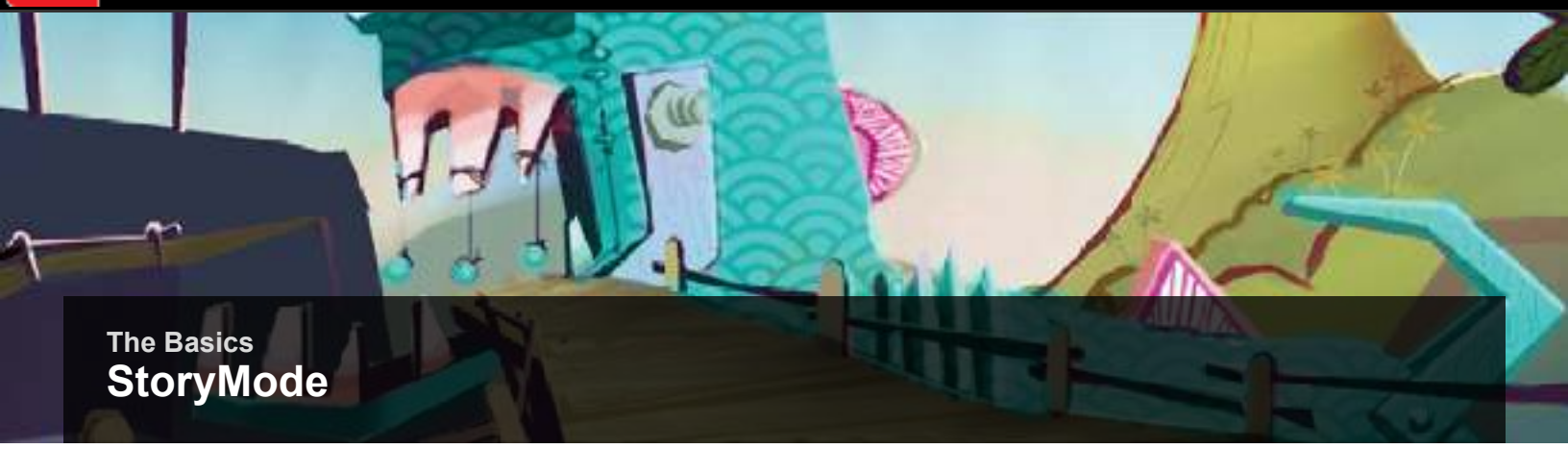
The Popit Menu

Inside your Pod, you can press to open your sack person's Popit. The Popit is a handy, one-stop shop for all the niftiest, shiniest, and most splendid odds and ends you've collected throughout your adventures in Craftverse.

Customization

Perhaps you feel your sack person is a wee bit underdressed or could use a little more color. Or, mayhap, your sack person's kart could use a little more flash. Simply open your Popit and select from Characters or Karts to customize the appearance of your sack person and kart, respectively.

To gussy up your Pod, select Stickers & Decorations from your Popit and decorate to your heart's content! If you feel like redecorating but want to preserve its current state for posterity, choose My Pods from the Popit where you can select Save Pod. Doing so adds the current Pod to a list you can recall at will. To start decorating from scratch, select Reset Pod.



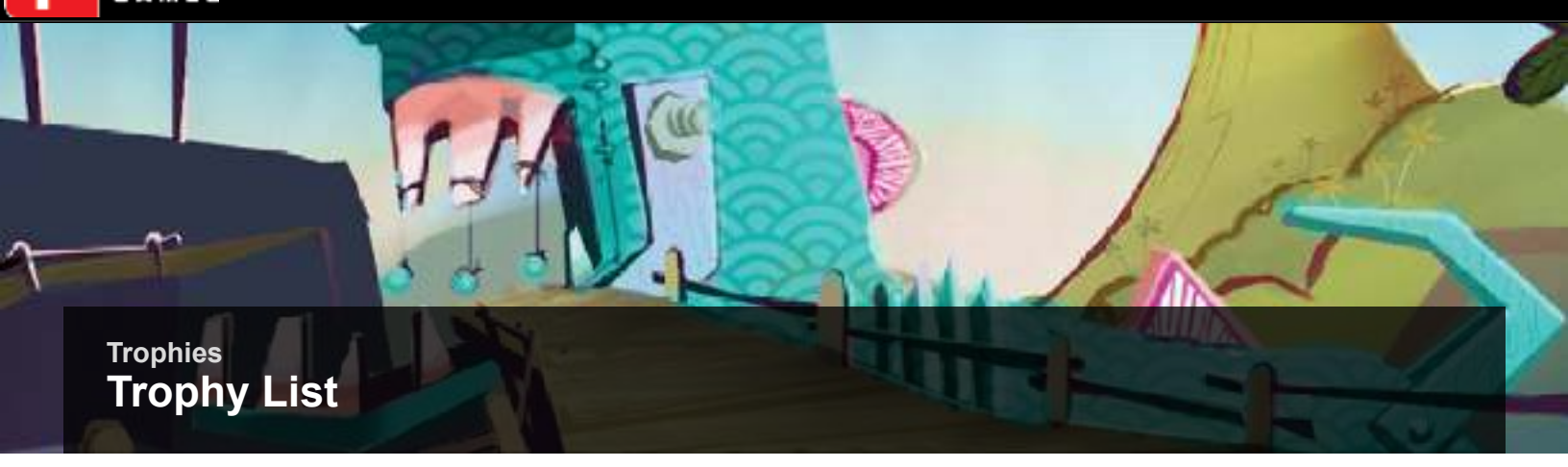
StoryMode

Story Mode?

Villainous scoundrels known as the Hoard have been running—or, more accurately, driving—amok in the Craftverse. Their wanton thievery and general rudeness has left large swaths of once marvelous landscapes desolate. Their pillaging cannot be allowed to go on unchecked!?

It's up your diligent and determined sack person to get behind the wheel of a kart to catch up and shut down these miscreants. Put pedal to the metal and zip around the Craftverse to end these larcenous loonies once and for all!?

To access the story mode, press in the Pod to access the Pod Computer, and then select Story to literally drive away the pesky Hoard.



Trophies
Trophy List

Name	Trophy Icon	Type	Description
100% Complete		Platinum	Earn all the LittleBigPlanet™ Karting trophies to unlock this platinum trophy
Complete Story Mode		Gold	Complete the main path of Story Mode
Story Star		Gold	Star every level in the Story mode
Building the Imagisphere		Gold	Spend 24 active hours in Create mode
The Adventures Continue		Gold	Complete 100 community levels
Online Sampler		Silver	Complete 25 community levels
Finale Star		Silver	Star every ‘finale’ level in the main story
Crowd Pleaser		Silver	Publish a level and have 10 different players complete the level
Online Champ		Silver	Place 1st in 25 different online levels with other human players
Dive In!		Silver	Dive into 25 community levels and complete those levels
Creator Maker		Silver	Create three cooperative levels and three versus levels
Complete LittleBigPlanet™		Bronze (Hidden)	Complete the main path of LittleBigPlanet™
Complete Monster Islands		Bronze (Hidden)	Complete the main path of Monster Islands
Complete Victoria’s Laboratory		Bronze (Hidden)	Complete the main path of Victoria’s Laboratory
Complete The Progress Emporium		Bronze (Hidden)	Complete the main path of The Progress Emporium
Complete Eve’s Asylum		Bronze (Hidden)	Complete the main path of Eve’s Asylum
Complete The Space Bass		Bronze (Hidden)	Complete the main path of The Space Bass
Complete Hoard, Sweet Hoard		Bronze (Hidden)	Complete the main path of Hoard, Sweet Hoard
Aerial Grappler		Bronze (Hidden)	Chain three different grapples without touching the ground
Flamin’ Skid		Bronze (Hidden)	Drift non-stop for 10 seconds without stopping in any racing Story level
The Brave Defender!		Bronze (Hidden)	Defend against 30 attacks from opponents in any level
Planet Star		Bronze	Star a planet in Story mode
Battler		Bronze	Achieve a 5-hit streak in any Story battle level
Showing Who’s Boss!		Bronze	Hit 50 Hoard minions in Story mode with any weapon
Road Rage		Bronze	Slap an opponent on any level
Big Combo		Bronze	Accumulate a 5x score multiplier in a Story level
Kart Mastery		Bronze	Complete all the tutorials on the first planet, LittleBigPlanet™
Just Getting Started		Bronze	Spend 30 minutes in Create Mode
Scholar		Bronze	Watch all of the creation tutorials from start to finish
Interior Decoration		Bronze	Create a custom pod
Makeover		Bronze	Change your costume
Hot Wheels		Bronze	Change your ride
Making The Community		Bronze	Build and save any level created in Create mode
Celestial Decorator		Bronze	Create a personalized planet
Custom Object		Bronze	Create a custom object inside one of your levels
Arms Creator		Bronze	Create a custom weapon in Create mode
Playing the Popular		Bronze	Play any level in your Recent Activity
Snapper		Bronze	Publish a photo taken from any level
Save This For Later		Bronze	Add a level to your queue
Get Gathering		Bronze	Host a playgroup with three other players in your Pod
Active Recommendation		Bronze	Complete a level a friend has written a review for
We Have Good Taste		Bronze	Complete a level on Team Picks
First Impressions		Bronze	Complete a level with less than 5 playthroughs and leave a review
About Me		Bronze	Completely populate your profile page
Better Than You		Bronze	Beat a score posted by a friend on any community level